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THE

MONTHLY



GULL

BULLETIN

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### A New Species for the Berkeley Aquatic Park

On October 5, 1940, David G. Nichols, Frank G. Watson, and the writer saw among the Forster Terns sitting on a boom near the west side of the pond at Aquatic Park, Berkeley, two birds which appeared different from the others. One of these was an immature Common Tern which had been present for several weeks. The crown of the other was all black as was the distal half of the bill. The underparts were grey shading into white on the side of the head, and the back was darker than those of the Forster Terns. The most obvious difference from both the Common and Forster Terns was its posture. It stood lower than the others due to its shorter tarsi and seemed more "down by the bow." In flight it showed some dusky on the primaries, and again the white stripe below the black of the crown was apparent. We had ample opportunity to observe the bird at close range both at rest and in flight, to take notes on its appearance, and also to compare it with the other two species. Subsequent examination of specimens in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology confirmed our identification of the bird as an Arctic Tern, *Sterna paradisaea*.

The bird was oiled on part of the belly, and it is likely that this had some bearing on its appearance away from its offshore migration route.

Although observers cover the area every day, the Arctic Tern has been seen only once since October 5th by Mr. Nichols, who observed the same bird on October 12th.

Robert W. Storer, Berkeley, California.



### Additional Bird Records for Treasure Island

In the December, 1939, and October, 1940, issues of THE GULL appear articles on the birds found on Treasure Island. A few additions to these records, listed below, should be of interest, making a total of forty-eight recorded.

On September 23rd, three Northern Phalaropes were in the Lake of Nations opposite Pacific House.

On June 6th a Western Robin was heard in the Court of Reflections, and on July 2nd, I saw two young ones perched near a nest in a cypress tree at the southeast corner of the Agriculture Building. On August 2nd a female robin was on a nest in the top of a sycamore tree near the Foods and Beverages Building. On the 4th she was again on the nest, but left, as I approached, to feed on worms which she gathered from the lawn on the east side of the walk, and on the 11th she was again seen on the nest. I did not see the nest again for two weeks, at which time it appeared empty.

On August 31st, I heard a Black-crowned Night Heron calling as it flew over the island, and many times in the evenings I heard Killdeer. On the evening of the 9th of September at 11:45 three flocks of silvery birds about the size of sandpipers flew around the Tower of the Sun in the dense fog.

On December 3rd, a Clapper Rail was seen.

In addition to these I have noted Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Song Sparrows, Barn Swallows, California Gulls, Quail, House Finches and Anna Hummingbirds already recorded by others.

Amy Rhinehart, Oakland, California. December 12, 1940.



### Audubon Notes

**January Meeting:** The 24th annual and the 281st regular meeting will be held on Thursday evening, the 9th, in the Ferry Building. Annual reports will be read and officers and directors for the ensuing year will be elected.

The nominating committee: Mrs. Bracelin, Messrs. Brighton C. Cain and Arthur H. Myer, has submitted its report, as follows: President, James M. Moffitt; First Vice-President, Gordon Bolander; Second Vice-President, David G. Nichols; Corresponding Secretary, B. K. Dunshee; Recording Secretary, Miss Ivander MacIver; Treasurer, Mrs. Alice M. Bello; Directors, Mr. Laidlaw O. Williams, Miss Frances J. Blake and Mrs. Kenneth Samnders.

The members of the Association have the privilege of selecting the three directors and nominations may be made from the floor. Article 4, Section 1 of the By-Laws reads as follows: The governing body of this Association shall consist of a board of nine directors, which shall include the six officers of the Association, ex officio, and three other persons selected by the membership.



**January Field Trip** will be taken to Lake Merritt in Oakland on Sunday, the 12th. San Francisco members take the 9:25 a. m. Twenty-second Street-Grand Avenue train at the Terminal and get off at Perkins Street, meeting at the Duck Feeding Station on the lake.

This is the only trip that the Association now takes which has an unbroken record, this being the twenty-third consecutive year we have counted the ducks on Lake Merritt. It is hoped that the members on this trip will take a census of the ducks, thereby maintaining a record of considerable value.



**For February** a trip by private machines to Tomales Bay has been proposed. Members having automobiles, who would like to co-operate, are asked to send their names to Miss Frances J. Blake, 1505 Holly Street, Berkeley, stating the number of members they can accommodate. Members requiring transportation are also requested to send their names to Miss Blake. If there is sufficient response further notice will be given.



**December Meeting:** The 280th regular meeting was held on Thursday the 12th, in the Ferry Building with thirty-eight members and guests present. President B. K. Dunshee presiding.

Miss Minnie H. Young, Messrs. Leo Grover, Herman G. Leffler, Robert Provoo and Frank G. Watson were elected to membership.

The following observations were reported: Gordon Bolander, Pine Lake, San Francisco, three Gadwalls and twenty-five Redheads, December 10th.

B. C. Cain: Lake Merritt, Black-bellied Plover, a new species for the lake, Sanderling, December 7th. Mr. Cain also observed in the bird bath at the Boy Scout Camp in Oakland, about two weeks previously, five species of birds bathing at the same time,—Ruby- and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Junco.

James Moffitt: Suisun marshes, hundreds of Tule Geese, December 11th.

Carl Smith: Canyon Road, San Mateo County, eight Lewis Woodpeckers, December 1st.

Mrs. Stephens: Crystal Springs Lake, 93 Canada Geese and 2000± Pintails, December 1st.

Frank G. Watson: Sausalito, Orange-crowned Warbler and Slate-colored Junco, November 24th.

Mr. Bert Harwell was the speaker of the evening. He told us about plans being made by the National Audubon Society for wildlife conservation, establishment of sanctuaries and a West Coast Audubon Nature Camp in California.